F. HUNTEN'S

CELEBRATED

IMSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE

PIANO FORTE.

J. W. RANDOLPH,

121 MAIN STREET, RICHMOND, VA.
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LITHOGRAPHED BY E. CREHEN.

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THE ELEMENTS OF MUSIC.

The execution of music embraces two distinct heads: first,—the comprehension of the signs indicating the various sounds requisite for a musical composition; the degrees of loudness and softness, the ornaments, the style, and the expression which characterize it: second,—the ability to perform it mechanically with the voice or upon an instrument.

The first part has for its object the cultivation of the ear and the judgment; the second, that of the hand. The former makes the musician; the latter the player. It may be readily perceived that the one is introductory to the other, and is essential as a preparatory study. To place a pupil before the piano, who is ignorant of the rudiments of the art, is like teaching reading to a child who has not yet learned to speak. I must add my humble counsel to that of many high authorities, in recommending those who desire to learn the piano, to devote themselves beforehand to the diligent study of the solfegi.

However, as the advice of my predecessors has been but little observed, it is idle to suppose mine will possess much weight; being under this belief, and aware that superficial and hasty instruction is preferable to its total neglect, I will conform to usage by inserting before this Method, a short exposition of the elements of music.

SECTION I.

OF THE NOTES, THE CLEFS, AND THE GAMUT.

ALL musical sounds which the ear can embrace, have been determined, noted and classified. They are called by these seven words: Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Si.

Each of these different sounds, as well as the character which represents it, bears the generic term of Nork.

The notes are written on or between five right parallel lines which form a Stave. The intervals between the lines are called Spaces.

4
SPACES. —4————LINES.
SPACES.

Ledger Lines are written above or below the stave when those of the stave are insufficient.

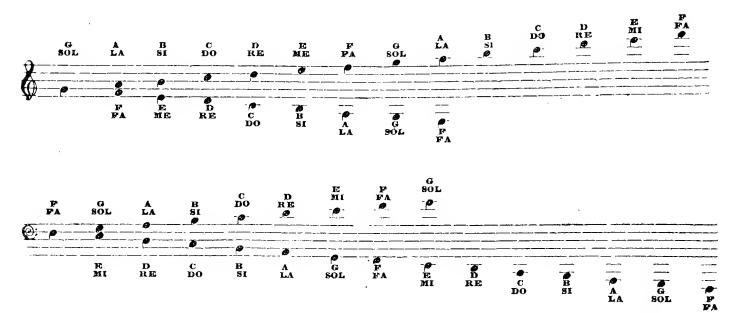
LEDGER	LINES	ABOVE.		 	
	AJAM AUS	ADO 1 AS1		 	
			<u> </u>	 	
				 	_
				 	_
LEDGER	LINES	BELOW,		 <u> </u>	

The notes, without regard to their form, are distinguished as to mere sound by their position on the stave. To establish their names it is also necessary that a sign called a Clef should be placed at the beginning of each stave.— Example:



By a single glance at a piano, every key of which gives a different tone, it will be perceived that five lines are insufficient to represent all the notes; and that even if supplementary lines were used, the number would be necessarily so great as to ereate confusion. The elefs obviate this inconvenience in a manner that would be difficult and at the same time useless to explain here, but which the pupil in playing will readily understand. It is sufficient to know that each clef gives its name to every note placed on the same line with the sign. This becomes the index to other notes, whether upon lines or spaces, either ascending or descending.

Examples of the clefs of Sol and Fa, which are the only ones used in music for the piano.



The union of these seven notes in their regular order, with the repetition of the first, forms the Gamut.



Piano music is written on two staves connected by a Brace; the upper stave serves for the clef of Sol, and the lower for that of Fa.

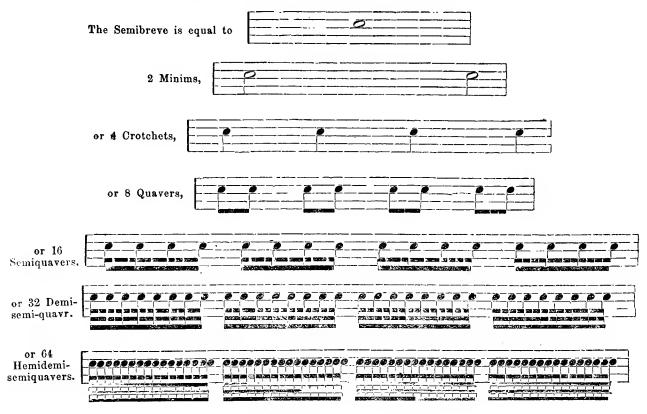


SECTION II.

OF THE VALUE OF THE NOTES, OF THE DOT, AND THE TRIPLET.

It is readily perceived from hearing a piece of music, that it is not composed entirely from any particular combination of notes, for the mere combination would possess but little variety; but that the length of the notes, relatively greater or less, is an essential part of it. The relative duration is called the Value of the note, and is shown by the peculiar form of each note. Example:

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE RELATIVE VALUE OF THE NOTES.



OF THE DOT AND DOUBLE DOT.

The different values of the note, according to the above table, are insufficient to express all musical ideas. A note wanted might be of a length relatively less than the minim but greater than the crotchet; or, greater than the minim but less than the semibreve; and, as there are no notes of intermediate value between the semibreve and minim, minim or crotchet, or between any of the other notes, the Dot is used to supply their place.

A dot placed after a note increases its value one half. Thus a dotted semibreve is equal to three minims, a dotted minim to three crotchets, a dotted crotchet to three quavers, a dotted quaver to three semiquavers, &c.

semiquav	Dot'd Demis	emiquaver.	Dotted Se	Quaver.	Dotted	Crochet.	Dotted	Minim.	Dotted	Semibreve.	Dotted S
						•	8		0		
									• •		
									P	0	

When a second dot is added to the first following a semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver, or semiquaver, ctc., its value is equal to half that of the first.

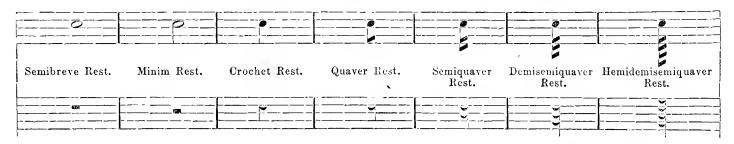


SECTION III.

OF THE RESTS.

Rests in a composition show that the music ceases to be performed during certain intervals of time. They afford repose to the singer and player, prevent confusion between phrases or members of phrases, and aid in producing musical effects.

The Rests have values corresponding to those of the notes: thus, the Semibreve Rest is equal in duration to the Semibreve; the Minim Rest to the Minim; the Crotchet Rest to the Crotchet; the Quaver Rest to the Quaver, etc.



The single and double Dot, which were explained in the preceding section, are also placed after the rests, and augment their value in the same proportion.



SECTION IV.

OF THE SIGNS OF THE MEASURE.

All the component parts of a piece of music are divided equally into portions called Measures. Each measure is placed between two lines called bars.



The measure is also divided into fractional parts called Beats. The measures containing four, three, or two beats, and those included under the head of three eight and six eight time are the most in use.

		Measure with three beats, called Three Four Time.	Three Eight Time.	Six Eight Time.
$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{c}}\mathbf{c}$	$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\lambda}_4^2 & \hat{\gamma}_4 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 23 \\ 44 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 68 \end{pmatrix}$	08

In common, two four, and three four time, the value of a crotchet establishes the beats; in three eight time that of quavers is used. Example:



When three quavers are played in the time of two, or six in the time of four, such groups are called Triplets; and to render them plain, it is usual to place the figure 3 over the three notes taken for two, and the figure 6 over the six notes taken for four.



The distance from one note to another is called an Interval.



A pupil with a good ear will readily discover that the intervals of the gamut are various. For example, the intervals from Do to Re is greater than that from Mi to Fa. The first of these intervals is called a tone, and the second a semitone. A Tone is said to exist between two keys when another key intervenes, as, from Do to Re or from Re to Mi. But from Mi to Fa is only a semitone, for no other key is between them.

The major gamut is composed of five tones and two semitones.



SECTION VI.

OF THE SHARP, THE FLAT, AND THE NATURAL.

A note is called a natural when it preserves the same relation of interval with the one preceding it regularly in the order of the gamut, as shown in the preceding section. Thus Re natural is the note which is a tone from Do natural, and Mi natural is a tone from Re natural; Fa natural is but a semitone from Mi natural. These intervals, however, can be altered by means of signs called aecidents: they are the Sharp and the Flat.

A Sharp before a note raises it a minor semitone; that is, a semitone almost imperceptibly less than the semitones of the natural gamut, and are called therefore minor.

A Flat, on the contrary, before a note, lowers it a minor semitone.

Flats and Sharps are either at the commencement of a piece after the clef, or accidentally before a note.



When these signs are at the commencement of a piece, all notes on the same line and space (and all other notes bearing the same name) are affected by them.

If they occur aceidentally before a particular note, they affect only it and others of the same name, during a single measure.

A natural serves to annul a Sharp or Flat by restoring a note to its natural key.



Flats and Sharps are placed after the elef in the following order.



A Double Sharp x raises a note a tone, and a Double Flat lowers it a tone.

SECTION VII.

OF THE MODES.

There are two Modes, the major and minor.

In the major mode, as shown by the Gamut of Do natural, in the fifth section, there are two tones from the first note called the Tonic to the Third.



In the minor mode there are but one tone, and one semitone from the Tonic to the Third.

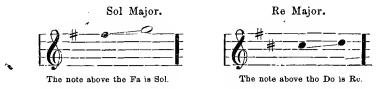


A Minor is said to be the relative of the Major when both are expressed by the same number of Sharps and Flats-

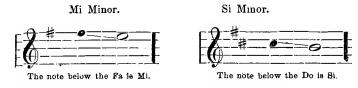


Each Major and Minor key bears the name of the tonic of its gamut.

The tonic of any major key with sharps, is the note one semitone above the last sharp after the clef.



The Tonic of the relative minor is, on the contrary, the note below the last sharp.



The tonic of any major key with flats, is the fourth note above the last flat.



The tonic of the relative minor is the fifth note below the last flat.



The keys which have neither a Sharp nor Flat at the clef, are Do Natural Major and its relative La Minor.

SECTION VIII.

OF ARTICULATION.

As variety is the greatest charm of music, several different styles of articulating the notes are used to assist in producing it. Brilliancy, lightness and confidence in execution also depend greatly on articulation.

There are three styles of articulating, the detached, the pointed, and the flowing. The first two are technically called staccato, and the last, slurred or legato.

A staccato or pointed note is played in a short and precise manner, the articulation being expressed by this mark (1)



A staccate or pointed note is played in a less detached style than the former. The point is placed above or below the note.



Slurring, or playing a passage legato, is to make the notes flow in a connected manner. The mark of a slur is shown by a curved line.



The Slur takes the name of Syncopation when connecting two similar notes, one of which is placed on an unaccented, and the other on an accented beat of the same measure or of two consecutive measures.



SECTION IX.

OF GRACE NOTES.

Grace notes, as their name shows, though not absolutely essential to melody, are employed as embellishments and also to prevent too great uniformity. There are several kinds: the small note or Appogiatura, the Trill, and the Turn.

An Approgratura is a grace note placed above or below a principal note. When below it ought never to be at a greater distance than a semitone; as any other interval belongs to the Portamente of vocal music.

A small note is generally half the value of the principal note; there are instances however when its value is greater.





When an Appogiatura is played with rapidity without reference to the value of the principal note, it is usual to cross it with a small line.

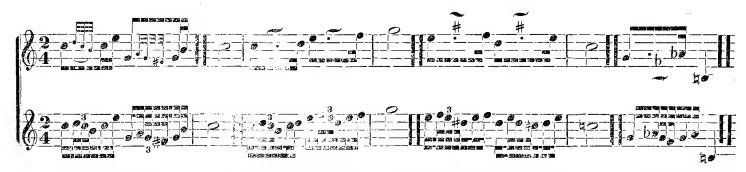


A double Appogiatura is played in a light and connected manner.

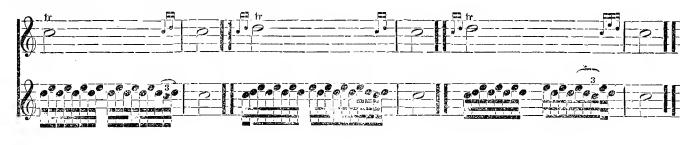


A turn is composed of three grace notes placed before or after a principal note.

In the first instance the small notes are written, and in the second they are expressed by the sign .



A Trill, improperly called a cadence, is composed of two notes struck alternately, and following each other regularly in the gamut. It has, a principal note which is expressed, and a secondary note not written, but understood to be above the other. It is indicated by the two letters tr.



SECTION X.

OF THE ACCENTS.

Accents are employed to diversify music by establishing different degrees of loudness and softness, vigor and grace, in its performance. These shades of expression elicit from each part of a composition its true and distinctive character.

Accents are shown by signs or by words generally Italian.

The sign - marks that the sound should be progressively increased.

The sign - marks that the sound should be diminished in the same manner.

The union of the two signs expresses that a passage should be commenced softly, and the sound increased gradually to the middle of the figure, and then diminished in like manner to the end of it.

The sign ! placed over a single note shows that it should be accented in a particular manner.

The words used for the purpose of accentuation are very numerous: the following list includes the principal ones with their signification.

PIANOor simply the first letter p	Sweet soft	CANTABILE	In a graceful singing
PIANISSIMO or simply two pp	Very sweet and coft	style.	Ill a gracerar congress
DOLCEor DOL	Swant	CON ESPRESSIVO	With avaression.
FORTEor f	Land	LEGATO.	Churred flowing.
FORTISSIMO or ff	Vary land		
MEZZO FORTEor mf	Trulf land	LEGGIFRO	
RINFORZAND() or Rinf: or rfz	Randoning the same 1	CON ANIMA	With opirit
loud but not suddenly.	neddering the sound	CON CRAZIA	With grace
SFORZANDOor sf sfz	Dandarian the	CON GRAZIA	With toota
suddenly loud.	neudering the sound	CON DELICAMERS	With delicacy
CRESCENDOor Cres:	In annual management 1	CON DELICATEZZA	With Geneacy,
in loudness.			
•	Timi til al 1 1	CON FORZA	With force.
DECRESCENDOor Decres:	Diminishing the loud-	CON CALORE	With near,
	0 11 1 11 11	CON BRIO? or Brioso:	With brillancy, bill-
SMORZANDO or Smorz:by degrees.	Smothering the sound		A 14 4 3
• 0		AGITATO	
ESPRESSIVO	Expressive.	SCHERZANDO	Playful.
AFFETUOSO	Affectionate, tender.	MOSSO	Animated.
MAESTOSO	Majestic.	SEMPRE	Always.

SECTION XI.

OF DIFFERENT SIGNS USED IN WRITING MUSIC, AND OF ABBREVIATIONS.

The sign . shows that the player must return to a similar sign and continue to the word Fine. When the return extends to the commencement of the piece, it is usual to prefix the letters D. C. the abbreviation of the Italian words Da Capo, from the beginning.

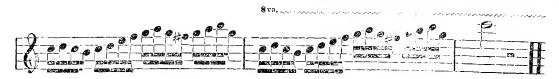
The main divisions in a piece of music are expressed by a Double Bar 11.

When dots are added before the bar thus: It they show that the division previous to it is repeated: when after, thus It that the division following is repeated.

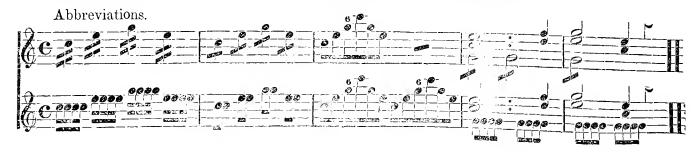
A Pause ~ marks that a beat of the measure is suspended, and that a note or rest must be prolonged for a certain space of time.



In order to avoid the multiplication of ledger lines it is customary to write very high passages an octave lower than their actual pitch, with this mark 8va ----- over them, showing that they must be played an octave above.



Abbreviations are employed in written music to avoid repetitions of a single note or passage: thus, in place of writing four semiquavers of Do, a crotchet alone, marked with two thick short lines, is used, etc.



SECTION XII.

OF TIME.

Time, in music, is the degree of slowness or quickness requisite for the execution of any piece. To change the time as established by the composer, is to destroy the true character of the piece by the substitution of false and often unmeaning effects. The pupil should make himself perfectly acquainted with the distinctive meaning of each of the following terms. From the grave to the prestissimo the time is progressively increased.

GRAVE	.The slowest kind of time.	ALLEGRO	. Fast and animated.
LARGO	.Large: very slow and grave.	PRESTO	.Rapid.
LENTO	.Slow.	PRESTISSIMO	. Rapid and impetuous.
LARGHETTO	. Less slow and grave than large	TEMPO di MARCIA	.Time of a march.
ADAGIO	, Slowly.	CON MOTO	.With movement.
ANDANTE	.Going neither too slow nor too	RITARDANDO or RALLENTANDO	. Retarding the time.
quick.	_	RITENUTO	.Retained.
ANDANTINO	.Somewhat less slow than An-	ACCELERANDO	. Accelerating.
dante.		AD LIBITUM or A PIACERE	At the will or pleasure of the
ALLEGRETTO	With peculiarly graceful and	l player.	
moderate vivacity.		l player. A TEMPO	.In the regular time.

GENERAL RULES FOR PLAYING THE PIANO.

1st. OF THE POSITION OF THE BODY AND HANDS.

The player should have a seat so elevated as to enable him to hold his arms horizontal with the keys.

He should sit opposite to the middle of the key-board at a distance enabling him to finger all the keys with ease, and free from bodily motion. And such motion is a great defect, which interferes equally with a pure execution and graceful manner, and should be early gnarded against by the pupil. During his studies, his body should be immovable without stiffness, and contortions of the face should never accompany any difficulties of execution.

The hand, slightly curved, should be held in an easy natural position, and the fingers should be apart so as to rest exactly on the keys.

2d. OF THE FINGERS.

Before exercising the fingers the pupil should be made award of their mechanical powers, and that they should be used independently of the arm and even of the wrist. By this exercise alone, grace, freedom, and an agreeable intonation are acquired.

The pupil should carefully avoid playing with greater force than his fingers allow; a contrary practice weakens them, and deprives them of that vigor which they ultimately require, and renders the execution dull, heavy, and convulsive. Effective playing, as it is called, is snited only to the pianist who has acquired a certain command over his hands; until then, the manner of playing should be simple and but litte varied.

3d. OF FINGERING.

If the piano had but ten keys each finger would naturally have its own on which it could rest, able to strike rapidly and without a fear of mistake. But as it is, the fingers having to strike a great number of keys, and their position being constantly changed, it is necessary to use the hands promptly and freely in order to meet the requisite extent of distance. It is easy to perceive that in proportion as the succession of fingers is natural and the movements of the hand rare and gradual, the difficulties of playing are diminished. On this principle are based all systems of fingering. The best of those which, while they are true, facilitate to the utmost a passage and are agreeable to the performer. A well fingered passage is attractive to the pupil, and promotes a desire for its accomplishment.

There are some passages the fingering of which is subject to fixed rules, as the major and minor gamuts, etc: but in most instances, the character of the piece must be taken into consideration. A vigorous passage demands sometimes irregular fingering on account of the preference which should be given to the stronger over the weaker fingers. There is also severe music for three or four parts, and that abounding in modulations, which is so complicated as to render a natural succession of fingering impossible.

But not by theories of this kind, more or less extended, can a pupil acquire a style of fingering adequate to all difficulties. In this matter good examples will avail more than general rules, which are often not well suited for application. I have endeavoured to afford these examples by writing carefully the fingering of all the exercises in this method. The teacher should also finger such other music as the pupil studies; and forbid the practice of all pieces not originally composed for the piano, as the arrangements of symphonics, overtures, quartets, etc., often demand a faulty style of fingering, injurious to the proper cultivation of the hand.

4th. OF THE MEASURE.

The metrical division afforded by the measure is the soul of music; without this advantage its highest charms, whether conferred by nature or derived from art, would be absolutely useless.

This part of execution should be scrupulously observed, though most pianists are accused, and too often with

reason, of being deficient in this particular.

A due attention to time sustains the pianist in difficult passages, strengthens the fingers in a remarkable degree, and gives alone the assurance necessary for a successful execution.

ON THE PROPER COURSE OF STUDY.

The pupil who wishes to make real progress on the Piano should devote at least three hours a day to its diligent study. These hours need not be consecutive: on the contrary, they may be divided among different parts of the day, at intervals sufficiently distant to afford rest to the hands, as well as to enable the player to withdraw his attention wholly from his practice. Close application too long continued is sure to dishearten and disgust the pupil.

The first hour should be bestowed on the exercises for the five fingers and the scales; the other two may be given

to such pieces as the teacher deems suited to the capacity of the pupil.

In attending to the studies the young planist should never cease to observe faithfully the time, the importance of which has already been enforced. In order to give each note its exact value it is necessary at first to count each beat aloud and equally, Pianists are sometimes disposed to harry the time in slow movements owing to the insufficiency of the instrument in sustaining notes of a long value; but they should guard against a habit leading to the worst consequences, by not quitting any key until the value of the note has expired, even though the sound has ceased altogether to be heard. Above all, in music for several parts, where the same hand has at one time notes of different values, it is essential to observe this rule.

In avoiding this defect, the pupil should not fall into the opposite extreme, and leave a finger on a key longer than is necessary, while the others are striking the notes following. I recommend for this purpose a most careful practice of

the first studies for the five fingers at the beginning of this Method.

In agitated passages and crescendos, towards the end of a scale, in a rapid group, and also generally at the end of phrases, the pupil is apt to harry the time. This fault not only weakens the hands, but likewise gives rise to numerous irregularities in the course of execution disagreeable to the herrer. The fingers should always be restrained in such passages.

A piece new to the pupil should be studied in a moderate movement so that he can observe strictly the beats, and the various accidental signs, and marks of articulation, as the staccato, legato, forte, piano, rinforzando, diminuendo, etc.

In order to obtain perfect equality and unity in passages demanding the use of both hands, it is necessary to

exercise them often separately, the left hand especially, which is the weakest.

Young planists imagine they increase their progress in choosing pieces beyond their ability, but they are grossly deceived; for thus it is that in a short time good habits previously acquired are lost, the execution is rendered weak and uncertain, and finally all idea of correct playing is lost. Let them always choose pieces according to their abilities; mistrust fashionable music where difficulties are heaped together with purile affectation, and believe that excellence is alone attained by persevering and well directed study.

The pupil should not, however, practise timidly, and for the purpose of greater certainty, phrase by phrase. I recommend freedom in study as well as in playing, and condemn practising a composition by piccemeal.

This last rule has nevertheless many exceptions which must be observed. For example, the easiest pieces often present some particular difficulties either of fingering or time. These passages the pupil should study with the greatest care, and endeavour to fix them in his memory, as it is not by playing over a few times what was easy at first sight that he can make progress and preserve unity in the execution of a piece.

Before acquiring a certain degree of excellence on an instrument the pupil should not indulge in playing from

memory, but eventually this may be done with advantage.

To render a piece of music comprehensive to the hearers, the player must comprehend it himself, seize upon its character, feel the melodies of the author and give them adequate expression. But the performer must not believe, as some do, that expression means passionate and languid playing, or that the eyes, the elbows, and the whole body, should take a part in the execution; for there is nothing more tiresome and ridiculous than this constant desire of

infusing sentiment into a piece.

To play with expression is to give to each passage its true character; and as this character can be by turns, light, sombre, animated, tranquil, uniform, lively and pleasing, and sometimes even harsh and crude, the execution should reflect intelligibly these different shades. For the sake of contrast the composer introducing a sweet and tender air may preface it with harsh cords and wild passages; to heighten the effect of a brilliant idea he may enclose it in a simple and naked framework; misconceptions on the part of the player in rendering such examples, may destroy the greatest beauties and render them entirely unintelligible.

IMPORTANT ADVICE.

Before commencing any piece of music whatever, a player should never fail to ask himself the three following

1st. In what key am I going to play? that is to say, how many sharps or flats are there to the key?

2nd. What is the time?

3rd. What is the movement?

THE MASTER

THEME VARIÉ POUR TROIS MAINS



THE SCHOLAR

THÊME VARIÉ POURTROIS MAINS



THE MASTER

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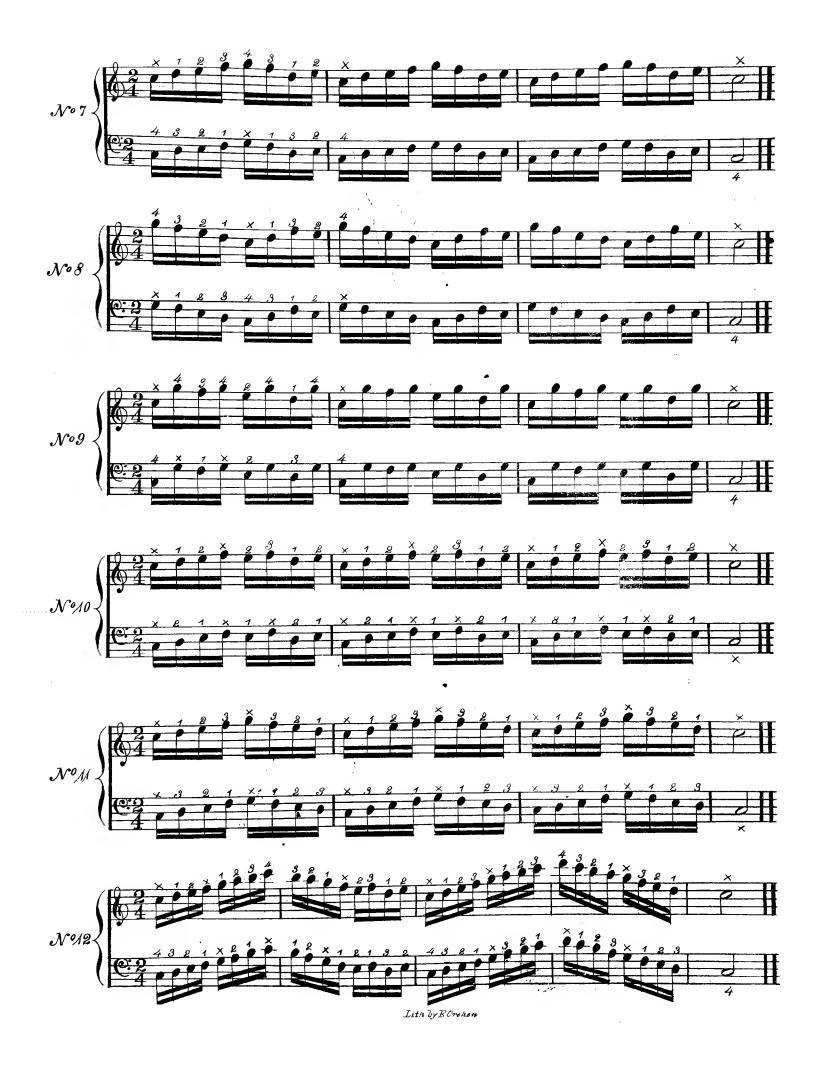






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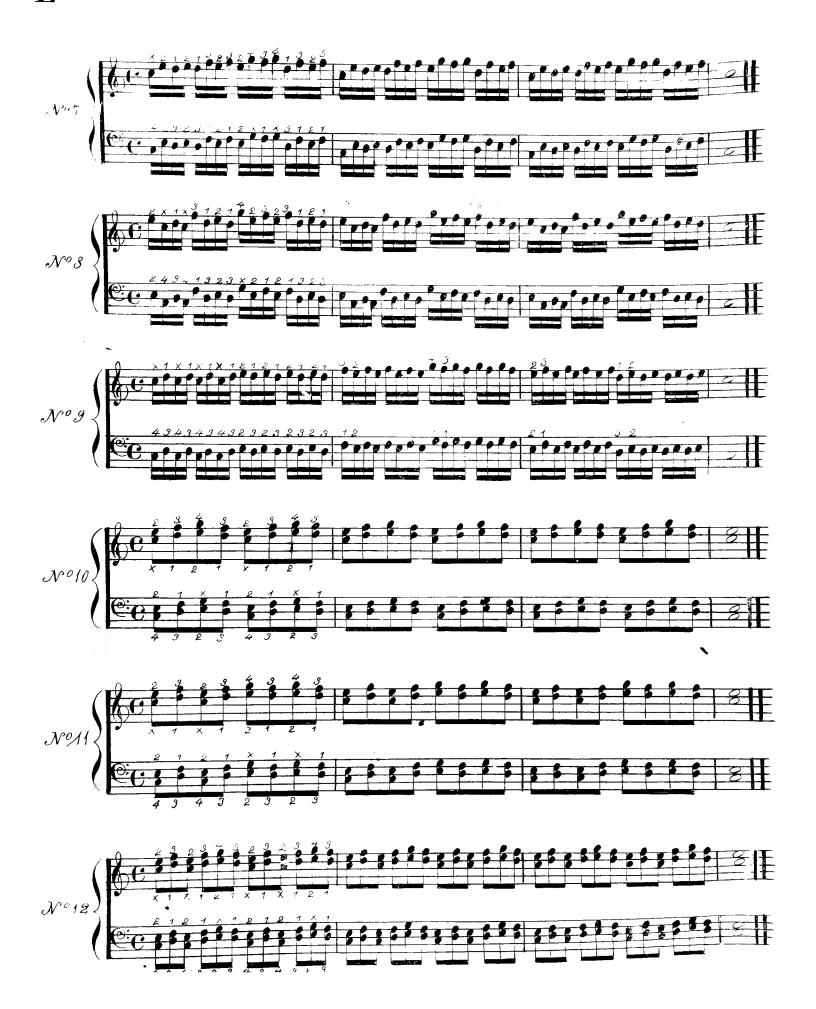




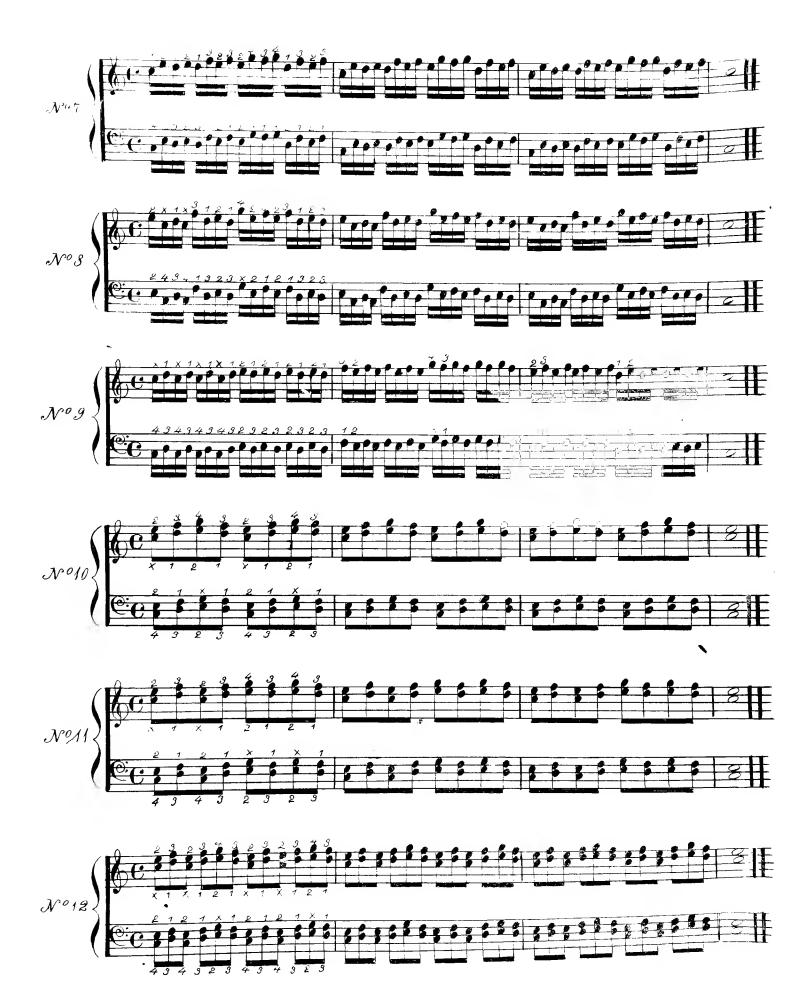
RECREATIONS FROM STUDY















MINOR SCALES



